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Michigan Manufacturers Association Honors Hammerstrom *Senator Recognized As Long Time Advocate for Manufacturers*

May 15, 2003-Senator Beverly Hammerstrom (R-Temperance) was presented with the 2002 Advocate of the Year award on Tuesday for her support of the state's manufacturing industry during the past year. The Michigan Manufacturers Association (MMA) honored Senator Hammerstrom at their annual Legislative and Executive Reception in Lansing.

The recognition reception takes place each May during "Michigan Manufacturing Week," the statewide celebration of the industry's contributions to the state's economy, and research and cultural communities. The "Advocate of the Year" is chosen by the MMA Government Affairs Advisory Committee and goes to a senator and a representative who have taken an active role in creating and sustaining a healthy business environment for Michigan's manufacturers.

Hammerstrom was chosen as a recipient for the distinguished award for sponsoring SB 1507 during the 2001-2002 legislative session, which would have allowed the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules more time to review rules issued by the Executive Office, and the Legislature more time to vote on those rules. This issue is important to manufacturers who are often impacted by rules, which, under the current

system, must be acted upon within 21 days, whether or not there has been adequate time to gather input.

“The Advocate of the Year award is our way of showing appreciation to our state’s lawmakers who strive to make Michigan a better place to do business,” said Chuck Hadden, Vice President of Government Affairs at MMA. “Senator Hammerstrom has shown tremendous support for Michigan’s manufacturers and her commitment to this state is commendable.”

MMA's membership is made up of nearly 3,000 companies across the state, ranging from Fortune 50 corporations to small, family-owned shops. Its members collectively employ 90 percent of Michigan’s industrial workforce.

“MMA represents the needs of a wide range of membership, from small companies across the state to some of the largest corporations in the world,” said Senator Hammerstrom. “In order to keep Michigan competitive in the manufacturing workforce, I will continue to support those initiatives that will attract and keep manufacturing jobs within our state,” she said.

Hammerstrom currently serves as the Senate Majority Floor Leader and is Chair of the Senate Health Policy Committee, Vice Chair of the Government Operations and Families and Human Services Committees, and a member of the Legislative Council. She represents the 17th Senate District, which includes all of Monroe County, as well as the cities of Milan and Saline, and Bridgewater, Lodi, Manchester, Saline and York townships in Washtenaw County, and Leoni, Grass Lake, Summit and Norvell townships in Jackson County.